

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A sheet separating apparatus for a fusing unit comprising:
a separating claw rotatably disposed toward a discharging side of a heating roller for separating a sheet from the heating roller, a substantially arcuate front end of the separating claw having a top surface, a bottom surface, and rounded corners, and a chamfered contact portion that angles downwardly between the top and bottom surfaces; and
a contact spring pivoting the separating claw so that the front end of the separating claw is in contact with the heating roller with a predetermined substantially constant pressure.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separating claw includes metallic material.
4. (original) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separating claw includes stainless steel.
5. (original) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separating claw is formed by a press.
- 6-10. (canceled)
11. (previously presented) A sheet separating apparatus for a fusing unit comprising:
a separating claw rotatably disposed toward a discharging side of a heating roller for separating a sheet from the heating roller, a substantially arcuate front end of the separating claw having a top surface, a bottom surface, and rounded corners, and a chamfered contact portion that extends downwardly at an angle of about 45° between the top and bottom surfaces; and

a contact spring pivoting the separating claw so that the front end of the separating claw contacts the heating roller with a predetermined substantially constant pressure.

12. (previously presented) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 11, wherein the separating claw includes metallic material.

13. (previously presented) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 11, wherein the separating claw includes stainless steel.

14. (previously presented) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 11, wherein the separating claw is formed by a press.